



Data:

We now have **250** high schools and ATCs registered for IT Academy in KY!

(Look for your "Challenge" in this issue of the newsletter.)

Stay Connected:

[KYITA Web page](#)

[Microsoft ITA Blog](#)

[Microsoft EduCast Webinar Series](#)

[KY's Certiport Web page](#)

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[@KYITAcademy](#)

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Casey County's ATC is in full force with Digital Literacy

Photo from Holly Joyner



Important Certiport Info:

To understand and get the most out of Console 8 (the exam delivery solution) and Portal (the account management tool), I recommend you attend one of Certiport's weekly webinars. For more information and available sessions, click [here](#).

Remember that you have another resource available at Kentucky's Certiport website. Visit and bookmark www.certiport.com/kentucky

for references and materials to make your MOS and MTA program a huge success.

How to Request Your School's PD Vouchers

Many of you have asked for guidance on getting your PD vouchers. You have been heard and there is now a "[How To Request and Redeem your 10 MOS, 10 MTA, and 10 MCE teacher PD Vouchers](#)" document in the Microsoft ITA Resources folder on KDE's webpage. Download all of your vouchers soon so you can have quick and easy access to them when you are ready to certify.



Skype call
between KY
School for the
Blind and
Microsoft
Intern, Kartik
Sawhney

Photo by
provided by
Dan Sharrard,
teacher at KSB

Bi-Weekly “Office Hours”

Every other Tuesday, 3:30 – 4:30 eastern, Microsoft, Certiport, and Laura will be on a Skype call for you to ask questions, get ideas, and collaborate. If you need access to the link to the call, please email Laura.

The Kentucky School for the Blind

As the statewide educational resource center on blindness, the Kentucky School for the Blind has begun offering (through their CTE program) the Microsoft Office Specialist certification. The program enhances access to Office applications and provides certifications to students who are visually impaired or blind living in Kentucky, providing valuable help to those entering the workforce or higher education.

On August 31, the Microsoft IT Academy class participated in a Skype session with the Microsoft team from Redmond, Washington. Topics included accessibility, clarity and certifications offered. Kartik Sawhney who is a blind Stanford graduate and is currently an intern at Microsoft shared his path and tips for achievement. The Microsoft team provided details on certification and Laura Raganas, who is the state IT Academy Manager, was on hand providing support.

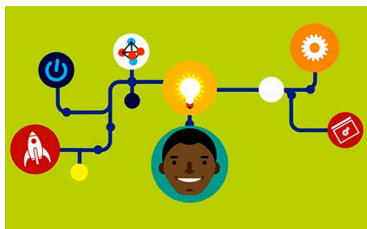
Story from Dan Sharrard, teacher at the Kentucky School for the Blind

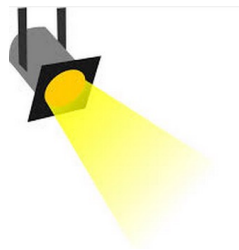
Here is the link to the Microsoft article about Kartik: [Link to the article about Kartike](#)

Great story: Nikkol Bauer DTC/CIO in Henry Co. has placed the acronyms MCE and MTA in her signature line. While in an email conversation with a person who was not yet involved with IT Academy, the other person wasn't responding very quickly.

When Nikkol asked him why he wasn't responding, he said, “BRB, gotta Google MCE/MTA.”

The best part of the story is that he emailed me (Laura) that evening and asked to create an ITA account for him and his school! You all are definitely making a difference - not only in the lives of your students in your buildings, but with the people around you that you don't even think about touching!





Spotlight:

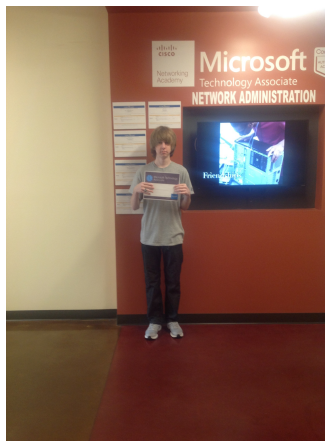


Elizabethtown's Early College Career Center EC³

Elizabethtown's EC³ had a great article published in their local newspaper about getting a "quick start out of the gate" this year with eight of their students earning their MTA certification. Read the article here: <http://www.thenewsenterprise.com/content/ec3-students-first-state-receive-microsoft-certification>

The students are: Colin Yates, Aaron Marsden, Ethan Swink, Collin O'Ryan, Dillon Brock, Jaggar Boone, Maverick Thompson-Scoville, and Terriq Myles

Another interesting piece of information about these young men is that they are receiving recognition for their accomplishments from their legislators. Keep up the great work!!



KY Listserv

You all are collaborating VERY well on the listserv!! Thanks for all your great ideas and questions. This will help all of us become that much more effective across the state as we build the program. A special thanks and KUDOS goes to **Amanda Comstock at Bullitt East High School** for creating an Excel Skills Matrix for her students and then sharing it with us and to **Tara Tatum in Marion County** for sharing her PowerPoint Skills Matrix. Resources like these will make a difference for everyone! If you need information on how you can be a part of the listserv, email Laura.

A special note from the Office of Career and Technical Education at KDE:

While ITA resources are strongly encouraged to be utilized in the appropriate Business and IT career pathways for CCR, they are not a stand-alone pathway.



**Follow KY IT
Academy on Twitter**
[@KYITAcademy](https://twitter.com/KYITAcademy)

KDE's [KY ITA Website](#) is being updated too!

Check out the Microsoft Resources folder and the Certiport Resources folder...they both have lots of new "How To" documents that will help you navigate the new and improved IT Academy site. There is also a new webinar available: "[Webinar for the New IT Academy Website](#)" you may want to watch.

Training Opportunity:

Where: Calloway Co.

When: Sept. 21, 5 – 7 pm CT

Be watching for an email with details and how to register. Other trainings are coming soon in Louisville and Lexington so stay tuned for more information on those.

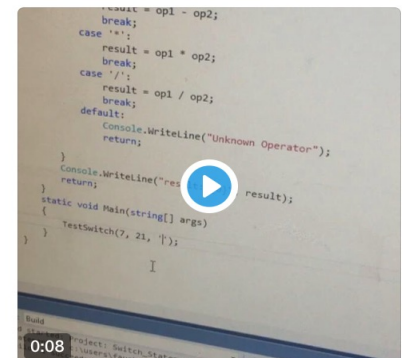
Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Expert Program is now taking applications. Visit their site to learn more about the program and how you can nominate yourself!



Kelley Carver @kbcarver

30m

Who coded a calculator today? My class! #TCHS1516 @KYITAcademy @jthamby #KYITAcademy #code #MTA



“Test-Ready” Challenge

We would like to see that everyone has administered a test by the first of October to ensure test centers are up and running efficiently. This can be a test for students or for your faculty/staff. Upon saying that, Certiport is providing the following tech tip:

Top 10 Checks for the Testing Season

It's almost time to begin testing! In preparation for the upcoming "testing season", we want to help ensure that your Certiport Authorized Testing Center (CATC) is prepared for test delivery prior to administering exams. This week we are sharing the top 10 administrative checks and in the coming weeks, we will share our technical checks as well as tips and tricks to foster the most compatible, error-free testing environment.

Please visit our [CATC Test Prep page](#) to review the full guide, which includes additional details on each check, as well as videos and other helpful documentation.

TOP 10 ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS

1. Organization Administrator Training
2. Test Candidate Registration
3. Credential Management & Recovering Username/Passwords
4. Creating Exam Groups
5. Accepting the Site License Agreement
6. Program Activation
7. Checking for Available Exams
8. Accept the Proctor Agreement after Registration
9. Designating Proctors
10. Verify Exam Delivery Solutions

I'll be reporting the data in the newsletter as you test/certify students, so be watching for your school's name to make it to the “Top 10 Testing Sites” list.

As always, if you need any assistance with your school's program, please reach out to Laura, Megan, or Ann. We are here to help make your year as successful as possible!